

LOCAL GOVERNMENT — PRESCRIBED BURNING — SOUTH WEST

777. Hon RICK MAZZA to the Leader of the House representing the Minister for Local Government:

I was pleased to note that the 2016–17 annual report of the then Department of Parks and Wildlife stated that the 247 360 hectares of prescribed burns in 2016–17 were the largest area achieved by the department in the south west forest regions in 30 years. Given that current weather conditions are likely to result in a significant increase in fuel loads and with reference to local government authorities in the south west regions and the lands under their ownership or management, I ask the following.

- (1) Do all LGAs have fuel load reduction programs, such as slashing, prescribed burning or other mitigation measures, within their bushfire strategies?
- (2) If no to (1), which LGAs do not have fuel load reduction programs?
- (3) Of those that have these programs, how many achieved increases in the number of hectares subjected to fuel load reduction in 2016–17?
- (4) How many LGAs recorded decreases in the number of hectares subjected to fuel load reduction in 2016–17?
- (5) What, if any, sanctions are imposed on LGAs that do not achieve targeted prescribed burning or other mitigation programs?

Hon SUE ELLERY replied:

I thank the honourable member for some notice of the question.

The answer from the Minister for Local Government is that this is a matter for each individual local government authority. However, it may well be, I do not know, that another minister is responsible for getting these reports from LGAs in respect of their bushfire strategy. I will see whether there is additional information, because it might come from a different minister.